

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/479,648

Confirmation No.: 3344

Filed: 7 January 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

Page 2 of 10

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1.-28. Canceled

29. (Previously Presented) A method of saving labor of adhering an adhesive-coated film to a substrate having a surface, comprising:

- (a) distributing a film to a party that has been taught to use the method of Claim 34;
- (b) optionally permitting such party to print an image on the film; and
- (c) permitting such party to use the method to adhere the film to a surface of the

substrate.

30. (Currently Amended) A kit for application of films to a substrate, comprising:

a) ~~a Heat Neutral Pressure source~~ an application device comprising a film-contacting portion that has a thermal conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F, wherein the film-contacting portion comprises foam material, and

b) a heat source adapted for applying heat to an adhesive coated film during application to a substrate.

31. (Original) The kit of claim 30, further comprising a film having removable adhesive coated thereon.

32. Canceled

33. Canceled

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/479,648

Confirmation No.: 3344

Filed: 7 January 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

Page 3 of 10

34. (Currently Amended) A method of applying an adhesive-coated film to a substrate, the method comprising:

providing a film comprising pressure sensitive adhesive coated on a major surface of the film;

heating the film to the softening point of the film; and

pressing the film against a substrate with a ~~Heat Neutral Pressure Source~~ an application device comprising a film-contacting portion that has a thermal conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F, wherein the film-contacting portion comprises foam material;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive on the major surface of the film adheres to the substrate.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using hot air.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating comprises heating the film using infrared radiation.

37. Canceled

38. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein the ~~Heat Neutral Pressure Source~~ foam material comprises open cell foam material.

39. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 34, wherein the ~~Heat Neutral Pressure Source~~ comprises film-contacting portion is in the form of a roller.

Amendment and Response

Page 4 of 10

Serial No.: 09/479,648

Confirmation No.: 3344

Filed: 7 January 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein the substrate comprises a highly textured surface.

41.-66. Canceled

67.-72. Not Entered

73. (New) A kit according to claim 30, wherein the foam material comprises open cell foam material.

74. (New) A kit according to claim 30, wherein the film-contacting portion of the application device is in the form of a roller.

75. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating occurs before pressing the film against the substrate.

76. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating occurs after pressing the film against the substrate.

77. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the heating occurs while the film is in contact with the film contacting portion of the application device before pressing the film against the substrate.

78. (New) An application device for adhering a film to a substrate, the application device comprising:

a heat source; and

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/479,648

Confirmation No.: 3344

Filed: 7 January 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

Page 5 of 10

a film-contacting portion that has a thermal conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F, and wherein the film-contacting portion of the application device comprises foam material.

79. (New) The application device of claim 78 wherein the heat source and the film-contacting portion of the application device are arranged such that they do not simultaneously apply heat and pressure to the same portion of the film.

80. (New) The application device of claim 78 wherein the foam material comprises open cell foam material.

81. (New) The application device of claim 78 wherein the foam material comprises foamed silicone material.

82. (New) The application device of claim 78 wherein the film-contacting portion is in the form of a roller.

83. (New) The application device of claim 78 further comprising a deflector operably connected to the heat source, wherein heat emitted by the heat source can be directed to a selected portion of the film.

84. (New) A method of applying an adhesive-coated film to a substrate, the method comprising:

providing a film comprising pressure sensitive adhesive coated on a major surface of the film;

heating a selected portion of the film using a heat source; and

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/479,648

Confirmation No.: 3344

Filed: 7 January 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

Page 6 of 10

pressing the selected portion of the film against a substrate using a foam application device that has a film-contacting portion with a thermal conductivity of less than 1.8 BTU/hr-in-ft²-°F;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive on the major surface of the film adheres to the substrate.

85. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the heating comprises heating the selected portion using hot air.

86. (New) A method according to claim 85, further comprising deflecting the hot air to a selected direction.

87. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the heating comprises heating the selected portion using infrared radiation.

88. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the foam comprises open cell foam.

89. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the foam application device is in the form of a roller.

90. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the substrate comprises a highly textured surface.

91. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the heating occurs before pressing the selected portion of the film against the substrate.

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/479,648

Page 7 of 10

Confirmation No.: 3344

Filed: 7 January 2000

For: METHOD OF APPLYING ADHESIVE COATED FILM

92. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the heating occurs after pressing the selected portion of the film against the substrate.

93. (New) A method according to claim 84, wherein the heating occurs while the selected portion of the film is in contact with the foam application device before pressing the selected portion of the film against the substrate.